

Hope Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at Heulwen Community Centre, Hope on Wednesday 6th June 2018.

Present: Councillors Mrs C Cunnah (Chairman), Mrs J Hilton (Vice Chairman), Mr B Hughes, Mrs L Davies, Mr A Parry, Mrs C Sheibani, Mr D Healey, & Dr R Parsonage, Mr H Manning & Mr A Parsonage

Absent: Cllr M Williams

In attendance: Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.
Sian Jones (FCC Legal Services) and Becky Jones (FCC Conveyancing)
Shelley Webber – FCC Domestic Energy Team, Healthy Homes Healthy People and Warm Homes Fund
1 x Member of the Public

46. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs S Waterhouse and Mrs A Dunlop.

47. Declarations Of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

48. Public Questions

There were no public questions

49. Chairman's Announcements

The Chair expressed her happiness at the news that Cadw have agreed in principle to the Community Council's Acquisition Request and of the official release by Minster Elis-Thomas on the 17th May. The Council are awaiting a further meeting with Cadw to discuss the formal agreement. The Council's challenge now is to ensure we work well with Cadw and to ensure that the good work of maintaining the castle hill is up kept and that it is great relief to know that the heritage will be maintained for the future.

She also thanked the Council for their support in her attendance of the Royal Garden Party on the 15th May, it was a wonderful experience and event.

The Chairman wished to remind all members that questions should go through the Chair, thus allowing to ensure order is maintained and that everyone has an opportunity to speak.

50. Minutes of Council

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the Annual Meeting and Meeting of the Council held on 2nd May 2018, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

51. Visitors to Meeting

- i. Shelley Webber - Domestic Energy Team, Healthy Homes Healthy People and Warm Homes Fund.
Ms Webber gave a brief presentation to the council explaining that of the £3.5 million funding which has been secured, there will be £2.7 million available for investment to assist the most vulnerable residents of Flintshire (installation of central heating, gas supply, fuel poverty, residents with children under 5 yrs of age, residents who currently have storage heaters). This investment project will be undertaken over the next 3 years.

There are two categories; Cat 1 - on grid properties would be by way of; mains gas supply, central heating. Outer skirts (rural areas); Cat 2 – would look at renewable energy.

Cllr Healey asked what types of properties this will be open to? SW explained all properties whether private owned, rental or council. With investments made into rental or private properties there would be a need for negotiations e.g if a rental property required gas central heating, they would liaise with the landlord to negotiate

any further home improvements (if they are less than standard condition) needed to assist the resident to live in a healthy and warm home.

Cllr Parry asked if the funding was not spent within the 3 years would this be lost? SW replied that the money will be spent and anticipate improvements to at least 300 homes, more if the budget allows.

Cllr Hilton questioned that as there are a number of properties within the community without main gas supply this would fall under Category 2 – Rural. SW explained that in previous locations, areas have been combined which has allowed for a ‘gas infill scheme’ which would then move the properties to Cat1.

Cllr Sheibani asked whether local charities have been made aware of this project, such as Home Start? SW advised that at this stage she is working with T&CC as it was felt that members have a very good knowledge of their residents and community. CS will pass this information to Home Start.

SW asked if any members are aware of areas or residents who could benefit from this scheme to contact her team. For areas where it is felt residents could benefit from this project SW and her team would initially do a leaflet drop in advance of making house to house calls.

The Chairman thanked Ms Webber for her time and the presentation for a wonderful initiative.

- Ms Webber left the meeting at 6.50pm

- ii. Sian Jones (FCC Legal Services) and Becky Jones (FCC Conveyancing).

The Chairman thanked them both for attending and suggested that they started by working through the predetermined questions the community council had sent them in relation to land on Hawarden Road, Abermorddu. There would be opportunity to discuss the answers at the end of the presentation.

1. These slips of land are owned by FCC. After many years (10yrs) of enquiring about the status of these with no response, FCC have finally provided the Community Council with a written statement of confirmation.

They personally only have a record of this request which was passed to Legal and initially responded to by Carol Higgins (who has since left FCC) dated 2017.

2. FCC maintained the land cutting the grass, fauna and hedges for approximately over 40 years.

They have checked with maintenance and FCC do maintain some of the land, however, they do not maintain land outside of Meadow Bank as that is not highway maintainable.

Cllr Parry expressed his concern that this meeting would not allow enough time to discuss this matter, as already he disputes what he has heard and has evidence to prove it. The Chairman said that we should hear all their responses, everything could not be picked up, however if he had a dispute, Cllr Parry could then present his dispute To SJ & BJ which they then could go away and investigate further. BJ expressed that they have undertaken investigations to get their response; internally, land registry and site visits.

3. Why after disposing some of the land, did the council continue to carry out this work at a cost to the rate payer?

They are unsure which land the Council is referring to, however, FCC only maintain land that is owned by FCC and that is highway maintainable.

Cllr Parry refers to correspondence dating back 11 years where these plots of land were confirmed as being owned by FCC. The purpose of these strips of land were originally intended for the road widening. AP feels that FCC has let pieces of these plots slip through their fingers. SJ advised that there is only one parcel of land which has been adversely possessed to her knowledge which was Meadows View in 2012. AP asked if ‘adversely possessed’ means that ownerships has been taken without going through the formal procedures? SR confirmed it means ‘claimed ownership’. BJ said to get ‘adverse possession’ you have to argue that you are in possession of that land without any license or permission and then do a statutory declaration to confirm that and apply to the land registry, the land registry would look at the request and respond either ‘yes’ or no’. In this case the Land Registry did not approach FCC to make them aware of this application, FCC have tried to seek confirmation on how the resident has registered this land in their name, however the Land Registry are not supplying any information and it is dated back too far for FCC to challenge. Going forward, they need to ask what needs to be done to protect parcels of land similar to this.

AP understands that FCC does not have the resources to monitor and visit all parcels of land, however, these parcels of land have a value to FCC and with respect, FCC are custodians of this land for the community.

SJ confirmed that all the pieces of land are now registered with FCC.

Cllr Parry feels that this should be raised with the Ombudsman, SJ advised an Ombudsman Complaint would be to the Land Registry. BJ stated FCC did not give away the land, people have argued that they have had possession of the land.

The Chairman interjected and recapped that we were now aware that one piece of land had been adversely possessed, a complaint could be raised to the Ombudsman otherwise there was nothing else that could now be done about it. We now need to ensure how land is protected for the future.

*Cllr Parry chose to leave the meeting at 7.00pm to allow the meeting to progress fluent and freely and without interruptions and challenges.

4. Who gave FCC permission to release these plots?

They have not released any plots. They have recently sold one plot (May 2018), fronting Hill's Crest', this was sold as it was a butt in the highway. That part of the land which was at the front of their property was part of the adopted highway. The resident had to change the status of it being an adopted highway which is a costly process and is done through the Magistrates Court, if granted the resident would then approach FCC to purchase the land.

5. Why didn't FCC consult with others over this decision eg. Community Council?

6. Why and how did FCC become selective in releasing some plots and not others?

They have never been selective or released plots of lands, however, should someone wish to purchase land they can approach FCC.

The Chairman asked if the public had concerns over someone possibly adversely possessing land who should they contact? BJ advised either FCC Legal Dept or FCC Valuation and Estates.

7. Was this procedure to release land done legally with solicitors involved?

Yes, solicitors would be involved if land was sold.

8. What revenue was generated from the sale of this land?

As the land is in FCC ownership, the revenue would go to FCC.

9. Was the recent plot of land in front of Hills Crest view Hawarden Road sold or given away for free, as a layby would have been of more benefit to those residents who don't have the benefit of off road parking?

As stated above, this plot has recently been sold, as the process has not yet been formally completed and registered with the Land Registry, they are unable to divulge this figure. There are currently long delays with the Land Registry.

Following an assessment, they feel that the land would not have been suitable for a layby and there are enough spaces which would be more beneficial for a layby.

10. Why was the old FCC boundaries showing clear demarcation of ownership shown on the recent new build plans of Oak View?

Because they had already adversely possessed it in 2012. The Chair asked whether this could be fought in anyway, to which they replied no, the Land Registry would not tell them any details on this matter. BJ advised they have asked for the information on how they go to where they were to be able to challenge. It is correct they had a conveyance of that land in the 1960's showing that piece of land, the problem being that pre land registration, the ownership of the land was held in Deeds (personal deeds). This allowed the risk of land being dispossessed .

11. There are others similar plots throughout Flintshire, how are the Council going to manage resident's expectations of gaining free land?

FCC would rely on members of the community raising concerns. It takes 12 years for land to be adversely possessed.

12. With no likelihood of there ever being a by-pass for Caergwrle and the increasing volume and speed of traffic along Hawarden Road, Abermorddu, some residents have no other option than to park vehicles on the road, even partially on the pavement. These plots were secured for improved road safety, not to be given away. FCC were and are custodians for the land for the benefit of all not the privileged few.
As far as they are aware the bypass has been shelved although no formal confirmation has been received.

13. If people are claiming land, how do we make it known to FCC?

As mentioned under no.6, any concerns should be raised with FCC Legal Dept or FCC Valuation & Estates Dept.

In the situation of Meadow View this is rare, the land had not been enclosed which is usually a requirement of land being adversely repossessed, and also the Land Registry had not liaised with FCC. It is extremely frustrating for them as they are unable to obtain any information from the Land Registry.

Cllr R Parsonage asked whether FCC owned land at the back of the Pack Horse Bridge as she was aware of personal CCTV signage being installed. SJ & BJ advised FCC do own land and suggested she reports to FCC and if possible to include a map detailing the area.

Cllr Healey asked if he was right in saying that if FCC received revenue from land sold that it would be placed in the 'capital and receipt's account' and not the 'revenue account' and by doing this any revenue received would not in fact assist in elevating the financial difficulties of FCC. SJ & BJ confirmed this is correct. He also sought clarification on their position within FCC, he asked 'have you had to divert your normal caseload to a considerable extent to research and investigate on this matter?' SJ & BJ replied yes they had. He then asked 'so in a sense this has been a cost to the authority?' SJ & BJ responded although yes it has, they are there to answer questions, they respond to such queries every day, they are there to serve the community and if they can assist they will.

The Chairman thanked them both for attending. This was a concern of all the Council and it had been very informative.

SR left the Clerk a summary of their investigation together with a number of maps.

*SR & BJ left the meeting at 7.20pm and Cllr Parry returned.

iii. PCSO Peter Jones was unable to attend the meeting.

52. Matters Arising

Min 7 – the amendments were made to the annual renewal for insurance and the final quote and payment was £624.93.

53. Minutes of Committees

Cllr Healey raised an inaccuracy under Minute 36/438v of the Leisure and Environment Committee. He advised as he has had the authority to liaise with the Spar and Alistair Hemphill that it should state 'Cllr Healey reported that with regard to the Spar offering a Community Volunteer Day he has been liaising with Alistair Hemphill. The Community Action Group have also expressed an interest in doing some work at the Castle, to which Cllr Healey has advised them this would need to go through the Community Council and they would need to seek the Council's approval.

RESOLVED: the report was received and noted.

RESOLVED: the minutes of the following standing committees be approved and adopted and confirmed as a correct record.

(i) Planning and Highways – 2nd May 2018.

(ii) Leisure and Environment – 2nd May 2018. Taking the above amendment, these were approved as correct record.

(iii) Finance – 2nd May 2018.

54. Casual Vacancy

The Clerk reported that no request for an election had been received by the Returning Officer and that the Council should now fill the vacancy by co-option in accordance with the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011. The

appropriate notice will be displayed and applications for co-option would be submitted to Council for consideration at the July meeting.

RESOLVED: the above be received and approved.

55. Annual Return for the Year Ended 31st March 2018

The Clerk presented the supporting information to accompany the Annual Return for signature and confirmed that the Annual Return will now be sent to the external auditors.

RESOLVED: all supporting information was certified by the Chairman and Clerk. The Annual Return will be sent to the external auditors.

56. Transport

Cllr Healey reported that he held a Transport Drop In Event which unfortunately had not been well attended. The decision from the FCC Bus Network Consultation should be released mid July.

RESOLVED: received and noted.

57. Beacon on Waun y Llyn – Hope Mountain – 100 Years WW!

A request has been received from Carolyn Thomas to ascertain if the community councils surrounding Waun y Llyn, Hope Mountain (Treuddyn, Llanfynydd, Hope) would make a contribution towards a beacon to mark 100 years armistice?

Alistair Hemphill, the Ranger who looks after Waun y Llyn has advised he could obtain a beacon for £400 which could then be made into a seat or tree guard later on

RESOLVED: the Council unanimously agreed to support this and the funds will be taken from the Leisure and Environment budget.

58. Training

The Chairman has requested that Training remains as a monthly agenda item to ensure the Council addresses any training needs.

The Clerk informed members of forthcoming courses and also advised that if members wished for specific training to contact her direct. Cllrs Hilton has requested to attend the Chaining Skills and Code of Conduct courses and Cllr Sheibani requested to attend the Code of Conduct Training and Community Place Planning.

Cllr Hilton reported to members that she had recently attend a Community Engagement Course which had been extremely useful and has gained valuable knowledge. She would highly recommend. It has highlighted a number of issues on how the Council currently engages with the Community and provided alternative ways in which we can engage. She is hopefully that when a situation arises where the Council needs to engage, she will be able to provide assistance. The Chairman advised that herself, Cllr Parry and Waterhouse have also previously attended this course and had a view to meet to review how the council could improve their engagement. Cllr Sheibani requested that Community Engagement be included on the July agenda.

The Clerk asked if any other members wished to attend the Code of Conduct Training as this is an important course that all members should attend.

RESOLVED: the Clerk will make the above course bookings for Cllr Sheibani and Hilton and Community Engagement will be included on the July agenda.

59. Correspondence

- Mold Town Council are proud to present an evening of entertainment to commemorate the Centenary of the end World War 1. The concert will be a reflection of the music and dance enjoyed throughout the decades following the end of the First World War.
Performing on the evening; Flint Male Voice Choir, The Goodnight Sweethearts, Elsber Dance, Angie Parker, Julie Scott, Jonathan Carney and more to be announced. Tickets will be on sale at £20.00 per person. Proceeds from

the evening will go to the British Legion.

- One Voice Wales - Data Protection Officer - Latest News. The Government has tabled an amendment to its own Data Protection Bill to exempt all community and town councils in Wales from the requirement to appoint a Data Protection Officer (DPO) under the General Data Protection Regulation.
Officials from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport have confirmed that all other measures will still apply, but that appointing a Data Protection Officer to support a council's approach to data protection will be discretionary and may be regarded as good practice. Microshade our current providers for GDPR services and DPO have advised should the council wish to withdraw from the DPO service with will reduce the cost by £25.
- The next Flintshire County Forum will be held on 19th June, 6.30pm – 8.30pm at Leeswood Community Centre.
RESOLVED: Cllrs Cunnah and Hilton will endeavour to attend.
- One Voice Wales Flintshire/Wrexham Area Committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 13th June 7.00om at Gwersyllt Community Centre.
RESOLVED: Cllr Cunnah will endeavour to attend.
- Cllr Dunlop has informed the Clerk that she has now applied for 'Bee Friendly' status.

60. Future Agenda Items

Cllr Parry explained he left the meeting during 'Visitors to the Meeting' to allow the feedback to flow without interruptions. He asked whether there would be a report included in the minutes as he will have residents who will wish to know the outcome. He also requested the Clerk to minute that he felt the way in which feedback was presented, whilst it may have been a good opportunity, he felt that there was no opportunity for cross examination from the community council and doesn't know how that was going to be allowed. He didn't want to resurrect this again, but feels that the opportunity was missed and he has so much evidence that he could use to challenge that and he does not feel happy by the way it was conducted. The Chairman responded she is not debating the matter again. She felt they were well informed, they have their hands tied for many of the issues and she feels confident, personally, that they are not given away free land. She advised that she would be drawing this debate to a close.

Cllr Parry advised from this moment on he did not wish to be apart of the community council, the Chairman asked him to reconsider, however, Cllr Parry left the meeting at 7.40pm

As the meeting had got a little fraught the Chairman advised that the Council should take a 5minute recess before commencing the Committee Meetings.

Recess taken 7.45pm – 7.50pm

Chairman: 4th July 2018

Hope Community Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee held at Heulwen Community Centre, Hope on Wednesday 6th June 2018.

Present: Councillors Mrs L Davies (Committee Chair), Mrs C Cunnah (Chairman of the Council), Mrs J Hilton (Vice Chairman), Mr B Hughes, Mr A Parry, Mrs C Sheibani, Mr D Healey, & Dr R Parsonage, Mr H Manning & Mr A Parsonage

Absent: Cllr M Williams

In attendance: Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.
1 x Member of the Public

61. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs S Waterhouse, Mrs A Dunlop and Mr A Parry.

62. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

63. Minutes

RESOLVED: the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the committee held on 2nd May 2018.

64. Matters Arising

Min 29 – the Clerk reported that she had contacted both County Councillors in respect of the lack of response from FCC Planning and has received a response back. There is a meeting pending between both County Councillors, the Chair and and Vice Chair.

RESOLVED: received and noted.

65. Planning Applications

(a) The Committee considered planning applications received as follows:

- i. Ref: 058245. Erection of farmworkers dwellings with associated garage and car port. Pen Y Parc Farm, Woodside Cottage Junction A5104, Pontybodkin. **Support**

RESOLVED: the above comments will be reported to Flintshire County Council Planning.

(b) The following applications which had been determined by Flintshire County Council were reported:

- i. Ref: 057670. Removal of existing building and construction of 2no. dwellings. Greenfield, Fagl Lane, Hope. **Approved**
- ii. Ref: 058028. Application for a lawful development certificate for the existing use of a building as a dwelling. Caeau Cottage, Caeau Farm, Gresford Road, Hope. **Refused**
- iii. Ref: 058224. Application for the approval of details reserved by condition no. 4 (finished floor levels and flood mitigation measures) attached to planning permission ref. 057976. Honey's Bakery, Hawarden Road, Caergwrle. **Approved**
- iv. Ref: 057794. Change of use to 2no. dwellings and extension to former public house. Halfway Inn, 42 High Street, Caergwrle. **Approved**

RESOLVED: the above be received and noted.

66. Flintshire County Council – Draft Planning Enforcement Policy

To Council reviewed the proposed policy which sets out an intended approach to planning enforcement by Flintshire County Council. The updated policy will assist in providing a more accountable and equitable enforcement service. Comments to be submitted by 12th June 2018.

Cllr r Parsonage gave a very brief summary of the report. The Council did not wish to provide any comments to the consultation.

RESOLVED: the Council did not wish to provide any comments to the consultation.

67. Speeding and Highway Issues

The Clerk had received a report for Lee Shone – FCC Traffic which she had provided to all members. As the report was detailed, it was proposed that members should review the document and it be included for further discussion at the July meeting.

RESOLVED: to be included on the July agenda.

68. Highway Matters

Cllr J Hilton made commented of the very poor condition of the car park at the Willows Play Area which she will report to FCC Streetscene. She has also reported hedges encroaching the path way on Fagl Lane and numerous pot holes.

Cllr A Parsonage reported that the railway fencing near Bridge End (fence adjacent to the bridge) is damaged and requested that the council write to Network Rail.

Cllr Davies commented on parking and delivery wagons at the Spar in Caergwrle, however, appreciates that there is nothing that can be done about this.

Cllr Cunnah did recognise the work of FCC Streetscene with the vast number of pot holes having been repaired.

RESOLVED: the council will write to Network Rail to request the fence repairs at Bridge End.

69. Technical Advice Note 1 (TAN 1) – Temporary Dis-application of Paragraph 6.2

The Chairman approved this addition to the agenda at the request of Cllr Healey. DH reported that Welsh Government have been forced to carry out a consultation on TAN 1 – 6.2 with a closing date of 21st June.

Cllr Healey advised that the current planning policy requires local planning authorities to maintain a 5-year supply of deliverable land for housing, based on meeting the housing requirements set out in Local Development Plans (Planning Policy Wales, paragraph 9.2.3). Local planning authorities without a 5-year housing land supply are liable to receive speculative planning applications for housing.

WG propose to dis-apply the entire paragraph 6.2 of TAN 1. This will remove the reference to attaching “considerable” weight to the lack of a 5-year housing land supply as a material consideration in determining planning applications for housing.

Cllr Healey asked if the council would support the suspension of paragraph 6.2.

RESOLVED: the Council fully support the suspension of paragraph 6.2 of TAN1 and will submit a response to WG.

Chairman: 4th July 2018

Hope Community Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Leisure and Environment Committee held at Heulwen Community Centre, Hope on Wednesday 6th June 2018.

Present: Councillors Mrs L Davies (Committee Chair), Mrs C Cunnah (Chairman of the Council), Mrs J Hilton (Vice Chairman), Mr B Hughes, Mr A Parry, Mrs C Sheibani, Mr D Healey, & Dr R Parsonage, Mr H Manning & Mr A Parsonage

Absent: Cllr M Williams

In attendance: Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.
1 x Member of the Public

70. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs S Waterhouse, Mrs A Dunlop and Mr A Parry.

71. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

72. Minutes

RESOLVED: the Chairman of the Council be authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the committee held on 2nd May 2018.

73. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

74. Playing Fields

The Clerk reported that the contractors should now be on top of the grass cutting at the Queensway Play area.

RESOLVED: the report was received and noted.

75. The Willows Playing Field

No issues to report.

76. Telephone Kiosk – Abermorddu

Cllr A Parsonage advised that he has obtained costing for replacement glass which will be approx. £25 - £30. He will arrange for the glass to be replaced and will arrange for the bottom panels to be painted.

RESOLVED: the council approved Cllr Parsonage to purchase the materials required to undertake the repairs.

77. CCTV

The Council considered whether the CCTV cameras have made a positive impact on ASB as there has been minimal footage retrieval from the PCSO. Cllr Hilton felt that although the cameras may be good as a deterrent, they are costly equipment for the council.

Cllr R Parsonage & D Healey both commented on how they felt the cameras had acted well as a deterrent and have reduced ASB, although the council have no actual figures as evidence to prove this.

Cllr Hughes feels that the feedback from the PCSO has been poor and is agreement with Cllr Hilton.

The Clerk did advise that she had spoken with Connected Security to ascertain the surveillance area of the Willows.

RESOLVED: the Clerk will speak with PCSO Jones with regard to the usage and quality of the footage from the cameras and ascertain if further training is required.

78. Caergwrle Castle

i. Following the Acquisition Request submitted in 2017, the Council have now met with Cadw and have been successful in agreeing a partnership. The terms of the partnership are still in negotiation stages, however, it has in principle been agreed that it will either be a guardian or freehold partnership. Cadw will only be taking responsibility of the castle remains and Hope Community Council will continue to fund and maintain the castle hill.

ii. The Council discussed when the Castle Working Group should meet and agreed it could now wait until the formal agreement has been made with Cadw, which then the Working Group could focus on the future plans for the castle hill.

Cllr R Parsonage informed the Council that she has been liaising with Alistair Hemphill about the possibility of planting wild flowers. They had hoped to plant poppies for this year, however, this will now be undertaken next year.

Notification had been received from AH that the recently installed plaque by Cadw had come loose. He has removed this to make it secure and will re-install. Members felt that this should, if not already done, be reported to Cadw. Cllr Healey reported that the communication of the removal should have been more widely reported as he was under the assumption it had been vandalised.

RESOLVED:

- i. the report was received and noted.
- ii. the Clerk will liaise with AH and ensure that Cadw are made aware of the plaque. A request will also be made to Cadw whether they should consider additional protection (vandal resistant).

Chairman: 4th July 2018

Hope Community Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance Committee held at Heulwen Community Centre, Hope on Wednesday 6th June 2018

Present: Councillors Mrs J Hilton (Chairman of Committee & Vice Chairman), Mrs C Cunnah (Chairman of Council), Mr B Hughes, Mr A Parry, Mrs C Sheibani, Mr D Healey, & Dr R Parsonage, Mr H Manning & Mr A Parsonage

Absent: Cllr M Williams

In attendance: Mrs S Hughes Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

79. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs S Waterhouse, Mrs A Dunlop and Mr A Parry.

80. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

81. Minutes

RESOLVED: the Chairman be authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting of the committee held on 2nd May 2018.

82. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

83. Defibrillators

Cllr Davies reported that following successful fund raising events, she has raised a total of £1,534.34 for the purchase of a defibrillator for Hope village, which the White Lion has agreed it can be installed on their building.

Round Table – Penyffordd	£ 300.00
The Masons – Caergwle	£ 250.00
Hope Church	£ 230.00
Doreen Lloyd’s Memorial Fund	£ 162.47
Race Night	£ 535.00
Collection Tins	£ 56.87
Total	£1534.34

She also advised that there is currently fund raising for Caergwle being arranged by the Masons. Cllr Hughes advised that the PTA at Abermorddu School are currently raising funds for a defib to be installed on the outside of the school.

The Clerk confirmed the costing which was previously provided to the Council by Tomos Hughes – Achub Calon Y Dyffryn. AED Unit £800+vat, Cabinet £335+vat, Installation £200-£300. The batteries of the unit would be replaced free of charge and the pads would be required to be replaced after either being used or every 5 years. Costs of replacement pads can vary. Cllr Davies asked the clerk to obtain costs for the replacement pads.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Davies for all of her efforts in the fundraising.

RESOLVED: Thank you letters will be sent to the above donors. The Clerk will contact Achub Calon y Dyffryn to obtain costings for replacement pads and also enquire if they offer a discounted installation cost for multiple purchases.

84. Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

The Clerk informed members that at the April 2018 meeting, the Council passed a resolution to formally adopt Determinations 44 and 47 – 53 of the Annual Report for 2018/19. No payments at that stage were made until clarification on how this should be done was received. She attended a IRPW Seminar in Llandudno on 9th May and whilst there was no clear guidance on payments, it did highlight the payment responsibilities on determinations 47, 52 & 53 and that by adopting 47, 52 & 53 the Council are also required to formally agree and adopt who these payments will be made to and a set payment figure. The IRPW emphasised that the role of a Community Councillor is not that of a volunteer and that it is a role in Local Government which holds significant responsibility.

The Clerk provided members with a report and requested the Council to consider the following:

(i) Who will receive the Senior Role Payments - Determination 47?

The Panel recognises that specific member roles especially within the larger community and town councils, for example a committee chair, will involve greater responsibility. It is also likely that larger councils will have a greater number of committees, reflecting its level of activity. The Panel has therefore determined that councils in Group B are authorised to pay up to five responsibility payments for specified roles. An annual payment of £500 each to up to 5 members in recognition of specific responsibilities. This is in addition to the £150 payment for costs and expenses if that is claimed.

(ii) How much will be paid to the Chairman for the Civic Head and Deputy Civic Head Honoraria Payment – Determinations 52 & 53?

Recognising that some chairs of community and town councils and their deputies are very active during their year of office, the Panel has determined that community and town councils should be authorised to pay an honorarium for these roles. In previous annual reports the Panel did not determine a maximum level of payment to mayors/chairs and their deputies.

The Panel's consultation meetings this year, confirmed that the majority of community and town councils make no or very modest payments to their civic leaders and that some of them are reporting the budget allocated for civic functions and civic expenditure rather than the amount paid as personal senior salary to the individual.

The Panel is concerned only with the amount paid to the mayors/chairs as an honorarium to be used or retained at their discretion. This is separate from a budget for mayoral/chair activities. The Panel has determined that the maximum amount to be paid to a chair/mayor of a community or town council in this way shall be £1,500. The maximum amount to be paid to a deputy mayor/chair in this way shall be £500.

(iii) How should the Payments be made?

Payments to members can be made via payroll where appropriate tax and ni will be deducted. This will be at a cost of approx. £6 per person per month or £8 per person per year.

Or

Payments to members can be made by cheque/bacs where no tax deductions will be taken at source. Members would be responsible to report the income to HMRC. (*OVW are currently seeking an exemption with HMRC for the £150 mandated payment to members*)

(iv) When should the payments be made?

Pay in advance of the year ahead i.e May/June. The Council would need to consider if a payment was made in advance and a Councillor left mid-year (resigned, disqualified or death) would the Council require a pro rata reimbursement? If a member joined the Council mid-way through a year, a pro rata payment would need to be made.

Or

Pay at the end of the year i.e Feb/March. If a member left mid-year the Council would still have an obligation to make a pro rata payment

Or

Pay in instalments throughout the year.

The Clerk also reminded members that there is a mandated payment of £150 due to all Councillors in accordance with Determination 44.

In the Annual Report it does state "*in all cases, any individual member may make a personal decision to elect to*

forgo part or all of the entitlement to any of these payments by giving notice in writing to the proper officer of the council.”

There was unease in reviewing this matter, however members fully considered the report and had a lengthy debate reviewing the senior roles and amounts. A number of members expressed that they would not be taking payments from the council, however, did not want to set a precedent for any other members now or in the future.

Concerns were obviously raised to how payments maybe perceived by members of the public, the Clerk reaffirmed the comments made by IRPW at the seminar and in their Annual Report *‘The Panel is of the view that Community and Town Councillors are not volunteers because further to the democratic process they have accepted formal responsibilities and all face some degree of liability’*

RESOLVED:

- (i) Chairmen of the Council & Committees were identified as the specific roles for Senior Payments with an annual payment of £500 in accordance with Determination 47.
- (ii) The amount to be paid to the Chairman in recognition of their responsibility will be £1500 in accordance with Determination 51 and the amount to be paid to the Vice Chairman in recognition of their responsibility will be £500 in accordance with Determination 52.
- (iii) Payments to members will be made by cheque/bacs where no tax deductions will be taken at source. It will be the responsibility of each individual member to report any income received to HMRC.
- (iv) Payments will be made February/March of each year. If a member were to leave mid-year, a pro rata payment would be made.

85. Payments

- i. To authorise accounts for payment up to and including 6th June 2018.

Payable To	Details	Amount
Flintshire County Council	Street Lighting Inspection/Maintenance and Supply April 2018	£699.94
Canda Copying Ltd	Photocopier Rental	£48.00
FLVC	Annual Membership	£25.00
Flintshire County Council	Annual Rent for Queensway Play Area	£59.33
Thomas Fattorini Ltd	Chain of Office Refurb	£945.45
Staffing Cost	May 2018 Staffing Costs	£959.62
Mrs S Hughes	Stationery, Postage, Equipment, Travel etc	£67.91
Cllr C Cunah	Chairmans Expenses - Royal Garden Party	£253.10
		£3058.35

RESOLVED:

That the above payments be approved and processed for payment. These were signed by the Chairman of Finance and/or the Chairman of the Council and countersigned by two bank signatories.

The meetings began at 6.30pm and ended at 9.00pm.

Chairman:4th July 2018